

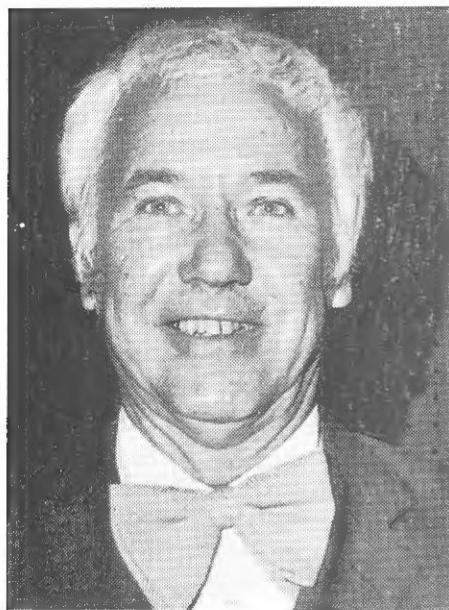
Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NUMBER 1



Rev. James Lightbourne

Services Held for James Lightbourne

The Rev. Dr. James H. Lightbourne, 59, minister of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, died suddenly on January 22, 1981 in Burlington, N.C. Rev. Lightbourne formerly served as Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference, based in Atlanta, from 1956 to 1966.

The Southern Conference, where Mr. Lightbourne had served as conference executive since leaving the Southeast Conference in 1966, includes 385 congregations of the United Church of Christ in North Carolina and Virginia.

Most of Mr. Lightbourne's ministry was devoted to leadership of regional denominational and ecumenical church bodies. He served twice as chairman of the United Church's Council of Conference Executives and was president of the Georgia and North Carolina Councils of Churches. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Elon College, Elon, NC and a past chairman of the Burlington Human Relations Council.

From 1973 to 1979 Mr. Lightbourne was a member of the Executive Council of the United Church, policy making body of the

Continued Page 2

Conference OCWM Sets Record!

Against a 1980 OCWM Goal of \$113,900, the Southeast Conference received from member churches a total of \$113,031, short of the mark by less than one percent.

The highest OCWM total in the history of the Southeast Conference, it exceeded by 14.1 percent the 1979 OCWM figure of \$98,999.

As a result of this excellent record of giving to Our Christian World Mission, the Southeast Conference was able to meet its challenge goal of \$30,000 contributed to the national United Church of Christ for work at home and abroad.

A deep word of gratitude is extended to all of the churches that had a part in helping to achieve this fine record.

"Lord, when did we see you...?"



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 29

Date of OGHS

Lenten Reflection

Writing about the liturgical season of Lent, Avery D. Post, President of the United Church of Christ, writes: "Lent is a time for repentance and prayer, an especially good time for intercessory prayer which is both a private and a corporate way to express profound concern over the suffering world. Lent is a time also for the expression of hope that such suffering can be overcome, a hope born in us as Christians.

"Intercessory prayer is a profoundly missionary act, a way of being present with and for the suffering people of the world, or, in the case of the Middle East from which I've just returned, the suffering of neighbors, Jews and Palestinians, both of whom are struggling in relation to a just cause, struggling — ironically — against each other!

"Lent is a time for repentance, an act of sorrow for our own responsibility for all this brokenness, and an act of deference to the grace of God who can do something about that human tragedy.

"In addition, through intercession and prayer, it's a time for us to be present with these broken worlds. Think on these things in a spirit of prayer this Lent!"

When the first reports came in regarding the devastation resulting from Italy's worst earthquake in nearly a century, the United Church Board for World Ministries immediately provided \$10,000 as a part of Church World Service's initial response on behalf of American Protestant Churches.

CWS provided tents, 22,000 blankets, and 1.2 million water purification tablets. More will be sent as funds are available. This immediate response by the Service Division of the UCBWM was made possible by your past gifts to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing all-church offering.

This "first strike" emergency money was replaced within a few days, and additional funds were provided as many UCC individuals spontaneously sent gifts to be used in this emergency. Funds and relief goods are being channeled through the service agency of the Evangelical Italian Churches (FEIC), which has given assurance that the goods are being delivered directly to those in need.

OGHS annually provides more than \$2,000,000 to the United Church Board for World Ministries for use in emergency relief, refugee resettlement, agricultural

Continued Page 3

CONFERENCE CORNER

Dr. Emmett O. Floyd

Isn't it funny how our perspective changes depending on our circumstances? As a parish minister I was always interested in the report of OCWM receipts from Conference churches. In fact, as pastor, I always tried to make sure that the church I served met its challenge goal to Our Christian World Mission. So I was always interested in these figures.

I have to confess, however, that now my interest is a great deal keener. I knew before how essential it was that every church be a part of the work of the Conference and the denomination. Now I know — in a new way — that it is even more crucial than I previously thought.

The pastors and churches that do their share in the work and support of the larger church make all the difference. Certainly the local church is important — it is the key to our understanding of the Church. The community of faith begins with a gathered group of Christians in a particular place. If the faith is not alive there it will not be alive anywhere.

But the point is that it begins in the local church — it does not end there. It reaches out into the community around the church — it encompasses the work of the association and the conference. It does not even end with the work of the whole denomination throughout the United States. It continues to grow — to touch other groups in ecumenical projects. It spreads out to include a whole world for whom Christ died.

Therefore, as your new Conference Minister, I thank each of you for your part in the record OCWM contributions received in 1980. Your local church, your home community, your association, your conference, your United Church of Christ, your world is enriched by your faithfulness. Let's all resolve to be even more faithful in 1981. The challenge of the future will test each of us.

Emmett O. Floyd, Conference Minister

A Hug A Day...

Have you hugged someone today? Four hugs a day are necessary for survival, eight for maintenance, twelve for growth.

Pleasant Hill, TN Newsletter

New Church

Development Gifts

Climb

Against a goal of \$21,000 the Southeast Conference received a total of \$16,341 from individuals and churches in 1980. Added to the slightly more than \$4,600, this came close to putting the Conference "over the top"!

Sincere thanks are extended to all who contributed to the achievement of this essential project.

Additional gifts to New Church Development are always welcome. Please forward them in care of the Conference Office: P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

Tennessee Hunger

Project Approved

The Tennessee Agricultural Marketing Project, based in Nashville, TN, has been sent a grant of \$1,000 from the United Church of Christ's Hunger Action Fund, Neill Richards, the denomination's world hunger action coordinator, announced recently.

Approved by the board of directors of the United Church Board for World Ministries, the funds will assist experimental programs in marketing, technical assistance, consumer organizing and education, and rural development work which the Project conducts to demonstrate the viability of the small family farm and promote individual self reliance and community self sufficiency in both rural and urban areas of the state. The Project was recommended by the Southeast Conference.

The Hunger Action Fund, which stems from contributions made by United Church of Christ churches and individual members, helps finance projects which address the causes of hunger. This year, the Fund has made \$40,000 in grants to 22 programs around the country.

The projects funded advocate public policy changes regarding the provision and distribution of food, carry out research and education or run cooperatives and conduct self-help efforts for small farmers and poor communities. Four are national in scope, seven are based in the South, three each in the West and the Great Lakes region, two each in New England and the Middle Atlantic, and one in the West Central area.

Resettlement Record

Broken

With almost 40,000 refugees resettled in 1980, the National Council of Churches' Church World Service agency has broken its previous resettlement record for one year.

The previous highs had been in 1947, when 27,000 were resettled, and 1975, when the figure was 21,000. The large numbers for 1980 have resulted primarily from the continuing influx of Indochinese refugees and the large number of Cubans who arrived in Florida this year. Roughly half of those resettled were Indochinese, with Cubans adding another third.

CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher, Pleasant Hill, TN:

Too often many have lost the sense of partnership with God; they soon regard themselves as supervisors, and later as owners.

Lightbourne - Cont'd.

church between biennial meetings of its General Synod. He also was a director of the denomination's Stewardship Council and served on its Historical Commission.

The Rev. Dr. Avery Post, president of the United Church of Christ, said in New York City that Mr. Lightbourne's death was "a loss of one of the outstanding leaders of our church and of the ecumenical movement." Dr. Post further commented that Mr. Lightbourne "was known far and wide as an exceptionally competent executive, as a humorist of no mean ability, as a warm hearted friend and as a faithful pastor to pastors. The breadth of his experience, combined with a deep love for the United Church of Christ, made him a source of wise and mature counsel throughout the denomination."

Mr. Lightbourne was a graduate of Elon College, received an MA degree from Brown University and a BD from Hartford Theological Seminary. Elon College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1961.

Southeast Conference Minister Emmett Floyd said that Lightbourne was among the UCC's "most beloved leaders. His death is a loss to the entire denomination and to the entire South."

In addition to his wife, Carolyn, a daughter, two sons, and two grandchildren, surviving him are his father, two sisters and a brother.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, January 28 at First Christian United Church of Christ, Burlington, N.C.

FOCUS ON COLLEGES: Cedar Crest and Hood

During the last decade 141 private colleges have closed their doors — and 28 of these were women's colleges.

Yet the two women's colleges that have long been related to our United Church of Christ — Cedar Crest College, in Allentown, PA, and Hood College, in Frederick, MD — are not only keeping their doors open but, in fact, continuing to thrive.

The reason: Cedar Crest and Hood have kept pace with the needs of contemporary women students. One important way they have done so has been by adding programs leading to degrees in health care, engineering, and management to their strong liberal arts curricula.

In addition, both colleges are consciously making more and more of an effort to reach out to older women in the community who are seeking further education. The result: Many mature women are now entering (or re-entering) college programs at Cedar Crest and Hood seeking new directions for their lives.

Times Are-A-Changing

A surprise was in store for a little boy named Jason when he recently went to church while visiting his grandparents in Missouri. As the minister stepped forward, Jason pulled his mother's sleeve and said, "Mom, You mean men can be ministers, too?"

Jason's pastor at Faith United Church of Christ, Iowa City, Iowa, is Holly Whitcomb — one of the more than 600 ordained women in our denomination.

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(l-r) Henry Good Bear, Norman Jackson,
Donna Richardson of CAIM

CAIM Celebrates Anniversary

Last September, the UCC Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) celebrated its tenth anniversary. Led by Henry Good Bear, chairperson of its Board of Directors, and Donna Richardson, its executive director, CAIM coordinates the work of the United Church of Christ among Native Americans.

CAIM's Board consists of representatives of three American Indian Reservation groups, plus representatives of youth and of urban Native Americans.

An overriding concern for CAIM continues to be the recruitment and training of leaders for the 22 small Indian churches that are related to the United Church of Christ. The ecumenically-supported Native American Theological School, which CAIM helped to create, contributes to this goal.

OGHS - Cont'd.

development, and social service projects in more than thirty countries.

The One Great Hour of Sharing all church offering will be received this year in most UCC congregations on March 29. Every congregation of the United Church of Christ is urged to participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, using promotional materials that are automatically sent to every church by the Stewardship Council of the UCC. If your congregation's materials have not yet arrived, please contact:

Distribution Service
Stewardship Council
United Church of Christ
1505 Race Street, Room 618
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Two Churches With A "Problem"

Two churches in the Southeast Conference have a rather unique "problem": they both have received too much money from their members. But in response, both have come up with an equally unique solution to their "problem."

Consider the case of Pleasant Hill, TN, Community UCC. The 1980 pledges far exceeded the church's pledging goal. What to do with this excess in income? Well, the members of Pleasant Hill feel strongly that their support is needed for the work of the larger church. Therefore, the solution was to increase their OCWM contribution from \$6,000 to \$7,000! For a difficult "problem," that's a great "solution!"

Belvidere, TN, UCC was also burdened by similar difficulties. Its "problem" was the income exceeded local expenses by a whopping 36 percent. What to do? Belvidere split its benevolence giving by contributing \$4,679 to OCWM, \$7,691 to Special Support (OGHS, Elon Children's Home, Family Thank Offering) and \$947 for other gifts.

Does your church have such a "problem"? If not, it can. Through a healthy and vital program of stewardship the problem — increased giving — can always find a solution — in increased support of OCWM and other benevolences worthy of your support.

Youth Invited to Springboard '81

Youth throughout the United Church of Christ are invited to "Springboard '81," a week of youth camping preceding the 13th General Synod.

Sponsored by the youth of the Michigan Conference, Springboard '81 will be held June 22-25, 1981 at Camp Pilgrim Haven, 1½ hours from Grand Rapids, MI.

Issues such as nuclear power, the eco-system of the Great Lake shore, and other social and faith issues will be explored.

The camp will conclude in time for travel on June 26 to the site of the General Synod in Rochester, N.Y.

The cost of Springboard '81 is \$50 per person. The camp is open to those who have completed the 8th grade, through those completing the 12th grade in June, 1981. One adult should accompany every eight youth.

For registration of further information, write: Rev. Robt. Bottoms, Second Congregational Church, UCC, 525 Cheshire Drive, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505.

NEWS & NOTES

On January 4, 1981, Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, S.C. initiated its Tricentennial Celebration by opening the church's cornerstone to discover treasures from the past. The church's first 100 years of ministry, beginning in 1681, were also reviewed. The celebration will continue to be held throughout this year.

The 1981 Appalachian Regional School for Church Leaders will be held at West Virginia University June 29 to July 10, 1981. Tuition for the two week school will be \$295. The school, offering courses varying from personal growth to issues of social concern, is sponsored jointly by West Virginia University and CORA (Commission on Religion in Appalachia.) For further information, write: West VA Univ. Conf. Office, Evansdale Campus, Morgantown, WV 26506

First Church, Phenix City, AL, presented a Christmas Cantata entitled, "In The Beginning," featuring their church choir under the direction of Music Director, Mr. Hugh Muldrew. Well received, the Choir was invited to present the Cantata at other local churches even in January, after Christmas!

The Church of the Savior, UCC, in Knoxville, TN, has a large and beautiful stained glass panel of Jesus it would like to give to a church that would preserve and use it. It was rescued from the old downtown church building. Anyone interested should write to:

John R. Lackey
Church of the Savior, UCC
Weisgarber and Lonas Rds.
Knoxville, TN 37919

Pilgrim UCC, Birmingham, AL is trying an experiment. Based on the premise that

Nativity Scene

Displayed

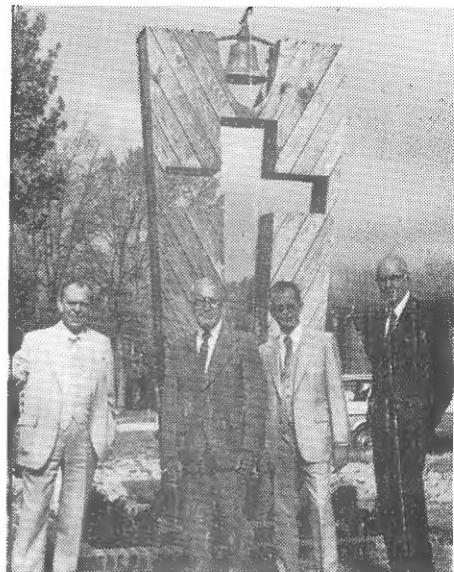
Each year in Phenix City, AL various civic and church groups participate in setting up Christmas and nativity scenes all around Moon Lake. Christmas 1980 was no exception for First Church UCC, Phenix City.

Through the work of the church's Boy Scout Troop and leader Mr. Larry Wall, a beautiful nativity scene — much of which was hand-made by the scouts — was set up. Joined by a number of other scenes, the setting was topped by a lighted Christmas tree floating at the center of the Lake.

Christian education is something that all members of the church community should be involved in, the church's schedule has been reversed so that church school classes, youth and adult, follow worship rather than precede it. The church will begin with worship at 10:00 and end church school at 12:00.

St. John's UCC, Cullman, AL is not a congregation that's afraid to sing! The church offers three different choirs, two of them composed totally of youth. The Teen Choir includes 19 teenagers and the Junior Choir has a total of 29 younger children.

Ms. Thelma Belair, a resident of Uplands Retirement Center, Pleasant Hill, TN, will be attending next summer the Aiya Napa Conference Center in Cyprus as a short-term volunteer under the Board of World Ministries. The Center serves as a meeting place for Middle Eastern Christians, resource center for those engaged in Christian-Muslim dialogue, and as a location for Orthodox-Catholic-Protestant discussions.



Recent dedication of Cross & Bell structure at Brookmeade UCC, Nashville, TN. Pictured (l-r) Walter Farrell, Cy Morgan, William Maddox, Paul Hardacre.

Funds Channeled to Salvadorian Relief Effort

Church World Service, the international relief and development arm of the National Council of Churches, has raised over \$150,000 to help victims of the near civil war in El Salvador since its June appeal for funds.

Most of the money has been passed on to the Ecumenical Committee for Humanitarian Assistance (CEAH) in El Salvador, through the World Council of Churches. The Ecumenical Committee, which includes both Protestants and Catholics, provides food and medical care to victims of the conflict. Twenty-five thousand pounds of clothing have also been sent, and smaller grants have gone to ecumenical agencies caring for Salvadoran refugees in Honduras and Nicaragua.

"Repression against the civilian population remains severe," according to CWS Executive Director Paul McCleary.

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